



7-29-05

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: D. Darst  
Serial No.: 10/672,239  
Conf. No.: 8709  
Customer No.: 33123  
Filed: September 25, 2003  
For: *PILL BOX AND SPLITTER WITH BLADE GUARD*  
Art Unit: 3724  
Examiner: O. Sanchez

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PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

7/27/05  
Date

Michelle Melanchuk  
Signature

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a Preliminary Amendment for filing in connection with the above-identified application. Because this Preliminary Amendment is filed prior to receipt of a first office action on the merits in the above-referenced application, no fee is due. However, should it be determined that a fee for filing these papers is required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1213, as stated below:

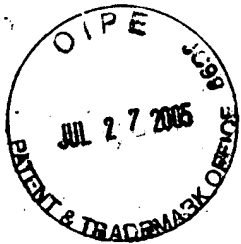
[X] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17 in connection with this paper or with this application during its entire pendency to Deposit Account No. 50-1213. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heller Ehrman LLP

By:

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7/27/05  
Date

Michelle Melendez  
Signature

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Preliminary to the examination of the above-identified patent application,  
please enter the following amendment and consider the following remarks.

Amendments to the claims begin on Page 2 of this document.

Remarks begin on Page 15 of this document.